

SINGLE AUDIT REPORTS

Liberty County, Texas

**Fiscal Year Ended
September 30, 2015**

Liberty County, Texas

SINGLE AUDIT REPORTS

Year Ended September 30, 2015

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**REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND ON
COMPLIANCE AND OTHER MATTERS BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS**

To the Honorable County Judge and
Members of the Commissioners' Court
Liberty County, Texas:

We have audited the basic financial statements of Liberty County, Texas (the "County") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2015, and have issued our report thereon dated June 27, 2016. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management of the County is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing our audit, we considered the County's internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over financial reporting.

Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that might be significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, and therefore, there can be no assurance that all deficiencies, significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses have been identified. As described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs, we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, we did identify certain deficiencies that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is a reasonable

possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiencies described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs as items 2015-1 through 2015-4 to be significant deficiencies.

Compliance and Other Matters

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the County's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

We noted certain matters that we have reported to management of the County in a separate letter dated June 27, 2016.

The County's responses to the findings identified in our audit are described in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs. We did not audit the County's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of, management, Commissioners' Court, others within the entity, and federal awarding agencies and pass-through entities and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.



BrooksCardiel, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
The Woodlands, Texas
June 27, 2016

**REPORT ON COMPLIANCE FOR EACH MAJOR FEDERAL PROGRAM AND REPORT
ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER COMPLIANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH OMB
CIRCULAR A-133**

To the Honorable County Judge and
Members of the Commissioners' Court
Liberty County, Texas:

Report on Compliance for Each Major Federal Program

We have audited the compliance of Liberty County, Texas (the "County") with the types of compliance requirements described in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133 *Compliance Supplement* that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2015. The County's major federal programs are identified in the summary of auditor's results section of the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned costs.

Management's Responsibility

Management is responsible for compliance with the requirements of laws, regulations, contracts, and grants applicable to its federal programs.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on compliance for each of the County's major federal programs based on our audit of the types of compliance requirements referred to above. We conducted our audit of compliance in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America; the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; and OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Those standards and OMB Circular A-133 require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether noncompliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on a major federal program occurred. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence about the County's compliance with those requirements and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion on compliance for each major federal program. However, our audit does not provide a legal determination of the County's compliance.

Opinion on Each Major Federal Program

In our opinion, the County complied, in all material respects, with the types of compliance requirements referred to above that could have a direct and material effect on each of its major federal programs for the year ended September 30, 2015.

Report on Internal Control over Compliance

Management of the County is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal control over compliance with the types of compliance requirements referred to above. In planning and performing our audit of compliance, we considered the County's internal control over compliance with the types of requirements that could have a direct and material effect on each major federal program as a basis for designing auditing procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing an opinion on compliance for each major federal program and to test and report on internal control over compliance in accordance with OMB Circular A-133, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the County's internal control over compliance.

A deficiency in internal control over compliance exists when the design or operation of a control over compliance does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program on a timely basis. *A material weakness in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies in internal control over compliance, such that there is a reasonable possibility that material noncompliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. *A significant deficiency in internal control over compliance* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control over compliance with a type of compliance requirement of a federal program that is less severe than a material weakness in internal control over compliance, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control over compliance was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control over compliance that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over compliance that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses may exist that have not been identified.

Report on Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards as Required by OMB Circular A-133

We have audited the financial statements of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the County as of and for the year ended September 30, 2015, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the County's basic financial statements. We issued our report thereon dated June 27, 2016, which contained unmodified opinions on those financial statements. Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the basic financial statements. The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented for purposes of additional analysis as required by [OMB Circular A-133](#) and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole."

The purpose of this report on internal control over compliance is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over compliance and the results of that testing based on the requirements of OMB Circular A-133. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose.



BrooksCardiel, PLLC
Certified Public Accountants
The Woodlands, Texas
June 27, 2016

Liberty County, Texas
SUMMARY SCHEDULE OF PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS
Year Ended September 30, 2015

I. SUMMARY OF PRIOR YEAR AUDIT FINDINGS:

None.

Liberty County, Texas
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
Year Ended September 30, 2015

I. SUMMARY OF AUDITOR'S RESULTS:

Financial Statements

Type of auditor's report issued:

The auditor's report on the basic financial statements of the County expresses an unmodified opinion.

Internal control over financial reporting:

Are any material weaknesses identified?	___ Yes	<u>X</u> No
Are any significant deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	<u>X</u> Yes	___ None Reported
Is any noncompliance material to financial statements noted?	___ Yes	<u>X</u> No

Federal Awards

The auditor's report on compliance for major federal programs expresses an unmodified opinion.

Internal control over major program compliance:

Are any material weaknesses identified?	___ Yes	<u>X</u> No
Are any significant deficiencies identified not considered to be material weaknesses?	___ Yes	<u>X</u> None Reported
Are any audit findings disclosed that are required to be reported in accordance with U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, <i>Audits of State, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations</i> , Section .510(a)?	___ Yes	<u>X</u> No

Liberty County, Texas
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
Year Ended September 30, 2015

Identification of major programs:

CFDA Numbers	Name of Federal Program or Cluster
14.228	Community Development Block Grant

Enter the dollar threshold used to distinguish between Type A and Type B programs:	<u>\$300,000</u>
Is the auditee qualified as a low-risk auditee?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

II. FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

We consider the following deficiencies to the County's internal control to be significant deficiencies:

2015-1 DEFICIT NET POSITION/OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Finding

As of the end of the current year, the County has an overall deficit net position of \$469,389. This deficit is reflective of the government's full accrual financial statements which includes all capital assets and long-term debt. This is not the same as fund balance which is in a positive position as of year end.

The primary factor causing this deficit position is the County's liability for Other Post-Employment Benefits ("OPEB") which totaled \$19,771,009 as of year end. This liability increased by \$1,662,999 when compared to the prior year and will continue to increase.

This liability will continue to be reflected on the County's financial report and should be considered when setting a reserve for unrestricted net position. Although the unrestricted net position at the government-wide reporting level is not as critical as a fund balance operating reserve, it may be considered by lending institutions and could negatively affect the County's interest rates.

Liberty County, Texas
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
Year Ended September 30, 2015

Recommendation

The County should take steps to reduce the OPEB liability. This can be accomplished a reduction the benefits to be paid or by prefunding the liability. The County has currently elected the pay-as-you-go option which pays OPEB benefits as they become due. By prefunding these benefits, the County could greatly reduce the liability and reverse the deficit net position.

Responsible Official's Response

Management concurs with this finding.

2015-2 GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Finding

The County does not currently have one individual or department responsible for tracking and reconciling all grant activity occurring during the year. Grants often originate from various County offices and/or are managed by a third party grant administrator.

Recommendation

The County should designate one individual or department to monitor all grant activity and be the point of contact for all departments applying for grants. The County should also develop a system of reconciling the grant activity recorded by the third party grant administrator with the activity approved/recorded by the County. In addition, the County should monitor expenditures for services performed prior to yearend and ensure the accrual is properly recorded in the accounting system.

Responsible Official's Response

Management concurs with this finding.

Liberty County, Texas
SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS
Year Ended September 30, 2015

2015-3 DEPOSITS

Finding

Several Justice of the Peace offices do not make daily deposits. This increases the possibility of loss or theft of cash while it is on the premises until the deposit can be made. Deposits are typically made weekly and can be in excess of \$10,000.

Recommendation

The County should consider adopting a policy of depositing all cash daily or formally approve a limit to the amount of cash that can be held without making a deposit.

Responsible Official's Response

Management concurs with this finding.

2015-4 EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF APPROPRIATIONS

Finding

As disclosed in the notes to the financial statements, expenditures exceeded appropriations in the Road and Bridge fund.

Recommendation

The County should monitor expenditures throughout the year and ensure that budget amendments are properly approved by Commissioners' Court and recorded in the accounting system.

Responsible Official's Response

Management concurs with this finding.

III. FEDERAL AWARDS FINDINGS

None.

Liberty County, Texas
SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS
For the year ended September 30, 2015

Department/Pass through Agency/Program Name	Program/Grant/ Project Number	CFDA Number	Expenditures
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY			
Pass-through Texas Department of Public Safety - Emergency Management Division:			
<i>Emergency Management Performance Grant</i>	11TX-EMPG-0398	97.042	\$ 68,219
Total Department of Homeland Security			<u>68,219</u>
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE			
Pass-through Texas Office of the Governor - Criminal Justice Division			
<i>Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant</i>	2675001	16.738	74,994
<i>Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant</i>	2786201	16.738	99,157
Subtotal			<u>174,151</u>
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT			
Pass-through Texas General Land Office:			
<i>Community Development Block Grant</i>	12-219-000-5519	14.228	169,950
<i>Community Development Block Grant</i>	13-307-000-7582	14.228	5,312,420
<i>Community Development Block Grant</i>	13-314-000-7601	14.228	-
Pass-through Texas Department of Agriculture:			
<i>Community Development Block Grant</i>	713290	14.228	191,467
Subtotal 14.228			<u>5,673,837</u>
Total Department of Housing and Urban Development			<u>5,673,837</u>
TOTAL PROGRAMS			<u><u>\$ 5,916,207</u></u>

Liberty County, Texas

NOTES TO SCHEDULE OF EXPENDITURES OF FEDERAL AWARDS

For the year ended September 30, 2015

Note 1: BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accompanying schedule of expenditures of federal awards includes the federal grant activity of Liberty County, Texas and is presented on the accrual basis of accounting. The information in this schedule is presented in accordance with the requirements of OMB Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations*. Therefore, some amounts presented in this schedule may differ from amounts presented in or used in the preparation of the basic financial statements.